

CLAIMS

1. A battery charge indicator for sensing and indicating a near full state of charge of battery, the battery charge indicator comprising:

a sensing circuit for sensing when the charging current to a battery is equal to a first predetermined value less than the value of the charging current when said battery is fully charged defining a near full state of charge and generating an indication signal; and

an indicator responsive to said indication signal for providing a indication when the state of charge of said battery is at a near full state of charge.

2. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 1, wherein said indicator includes a first visual indication.
3. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 2, wherein said first visual indication is a first light emitting diode (LED).
4. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 2, wherein said sensing circuit is configured to sensing other charging states of said battery, other than said near full state of charge.
5. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 4, wherein said sensing circuit is configured to sense when the battery charging current is less than said first predetermined value and generating a second indication signal representing that said charging current is at a charge state other than said near fully charged state.
6. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 5, further including a second visual indication.

7. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and second indication signals are used to drive one or the other of said first visual indicator and said second visual indicator indicating that the state of charge of said battery is at a state of charge near fully charge; at full charge or between said near charge state and said fully charged state.
8. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 7, wherein said second visual indication is a second LED.
9. The battery charge indicator as recited in claim 8, wherein sensing circuit is configured to define first, second and third charging states and wherein said first LED is a red LED and said second LED is a green LED and in said first state, said red LED is illuminated and in said second state both said red and green LEDs are illuminated and in said third state, only said green LED is illuminated.